

THE BLIND GIRL'S SIGH.

The stars of the twilight are dark,
No image of light can I see;
The eyelids of morning awake with the sun,
No dawning of light is for me!

I hear the birds twitter and sing,
And list to the hum of the bee;
I know by the scent of the violet it's spring,
But darkness, all darkness to me.

I know summer's fading away,
When leaves rustle dry 'neath the tree;
And winter brings snowflakes to fall on my brow,
But darkness, all darkness to me.

I tell by the touch of the hand
The mother I never shall see;
Her step often lingers beside her blind child,
I feel her in darkness near me.

O ye, whose eyes open at morn,
Thank God when the daylight you see,
Give pity and help to the poor blindly born,
Whose years roll in darkness with me.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

LESSON VI.—MAY 8.

WATCHFULNESS.

Luke 12. 35-48. Memorize verses 1, 2.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching.—Luke 12. 37.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

What is a parable? A story which has a spiritual meaning. What does Matthew say about the Lord's teaching? "Without a parable spake he not unto them" (Matt. 13. 34). What is the story in our lesson about? Why was the master going on a journey? Did the servants know when he would return? What would a faithful servant do? What would the master expect to see? What did Jesus say about good servants? What kind of people who you know are like them? May a child be a faithful servant?

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses carefully. Luke 12. 35-48.
- Tues. Read about an unfaithful servant. Luke 12. 16-21.
- Wed. Learn what is more than riches. Luke 12. 23.
- Thur. Learn the Golden Text.

- Fri. Learn who will take care of us if we trust him. Luke 12. 27, 28.
- Sat. Ask, "What kind of a servant am I?"
- Sun. Read a story about watching. Matt. 25. 1-13.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

- We have learned that—
- 1. The Lord, our Master, is coming for us.
 - 2. We do not know how soon.
 - 3. We must be faithful to duty, and ready to meet him.

LESSON VII.—MAY 15.

THE PRODIGAL SON.

Luke 15. 11-24. Memorize verses 17-19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Come, and let us return unto the Lord.—Hos. 6. 1.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

What is the first parable in the fifteenth chapter of Luke? What is the second? What is the third? What do these story lessons teach? To whom did Jesus tell these stories? To the publicans and sinners. Which son of a rich man wanted to leave home? What did he ask for? What is the share of the younger son? One third. Why did he want to go away? When are we like this foolish boy? When we want our own way. What did he do with his money? What hard work did he have to do? What lesson did he learn? That sin brings sorrow. What did he do at last? Who met him? What did he do to show his joy? What did the boy do to show his sorrow and repentance? Who is meant by the father in the story? And who by the son?

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the parable of the lost sheep. Luke 15. 4-7.
- Tues. Read about the lost piece of silver. Luke 15. 8-10.
- Wed. Read about the lost boy. Lesson verses, Luke 15. 11-24.
- Thur. Learn the beautiful Golden Text.
- Fri. Learn what to do when we have done wrong. Luke 15. 18.
- Sat. Read about the self-righteous elder son. Luke 15. 25-32.
- Sun. Find who came to hear Jesus teach. Luke 15. 1.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

- We have learned that—
- 1. God is more loving than any earthly father.
 - 2. He knows when his children truly repent.
 - 3. He who truly repents is very dear to God.

Be loving, and you will never want for love; be humble, and you will never want for guiding.

THE CAPTIVE AFRICAN BOY.

Fifty years ago there was a boy in Africa who was taken prisoner in one of the fierce wars between the tribes and was carried away from his home to be sold as a slave. Poor fellow! First he was sold for a horse. Then his buyer thought him a bad exchange for the horse, and compelled his master to take him back. Then he was sold for so much rum. This was called another bad bargain by the man who had bought him, and again he was returned, to be sold for tobacco, with the same result.

Nobody wanted the poor miserable slave boy, who was on the point of committing suicide when he was bought by a Portuguese trader, and carried away in a slave-ship. Ah, how little that wretched boy, as he lay chained in the hold of that crowded slave-ship, thought what the future had in store for him, or what great things God would yet do for him. One day an English warship, that was clearing the high seas of the slavers, bore down upon the Portuguese vessel, and rescued the captives. The African boy was placed under Christian influences, baptized, and educated, and to-day he is Bishop Crowther, England's black Bishop in Africa, where he has founded a successful mission.

It would be a long story to tell all he has done for his poor people in Africa, how he has fought the slave trade, preached to cannibals, been taken prisoner again and again, and how the Lord has kept him safe in every danger. Twenty-five years after he was made a slave he found his old mother, and she became a Christian, and died under the hospitable roof of her son's episcopal residence.

BRAVE LITTLE HARRY.

It was a cold morning, but Nannie thought she could not stay at home from Sunday-school. "Cause you know, mamma, I've not been absent one Sunday this quarter, and I don't want to miss one single day."

Papa said that he thought it would not hurt her to go through the cold, for she was out of doors every day longer than it took to walk to church.

"Yes, let her go with me," said Harry. "I'll carry the umbrella and keep off the snow."

Nannie found it pretty cold before they got to church; but Harry told her not to cry, for they would soon be there.

"How do you s'pose you could stand it, Nannie, if you had no good warm cloak and muff, like that poor little girl we saw last night?" he asked kindly, for he said to himself that he didn't want her to think she couldn't stand it.

That's the right way, Harry; keep up a brave heart within, and it will help you to bear the cold outside.—Olive Plants.